

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /073 W
-----038859 190610Z /10

R 170857Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL DURBAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2865
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY MASERU
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, SF (TRANSKEI)
SUBJ: MATANZIMA ATTACKS SAG POLICIES

1. SUMMARY: AT A SPEECH OPENING ANNUAL TNIP PARTY CONGRESS MARCH 13, PRIME MINISTER MATANZIMA SCATHINGLY ATTACKED THE SAG'S APARTHEID POLICY AND DECLARED IT UP TO ALL NATIONS OF AFRICA, INCLUDING TRANSKEI AND BOPHUTHATSWANA, TO FORCE SOUTH AFRICA TO COME TO HER SENSES. MATANZIMA SAID TRANSKEI WISHED TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND INDICATED HIS INTENTION TO CALL A CONFERENCE OF "OPPRESSED PEOPLE" LATER THIS YEAR IN UMTATA. HE EXPRESSED DISPLEASURE WITH THE SAG'S TREATMENT OF TRANSKIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND ITS REFUSAL TO ACCEDE TO HIS DEMANDS ON THE TRANSFER OF ADDITIONAL TERRITORY TO TRANSKEI. IN AN ATTEMPT TO ENCOURAGE ANY TYPE OF DIPLOMATIC CONTACT HE CALLED ON THE WESTERN POWERS TO COME TO TRANSKEI TO CONSULT WITH HIM ON THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE,
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FAILING WHICH HE THREATENED TO TURN TO THE MIDDLE EAST OR FAR EAST. END SUMMARY.

2. TRANSKEI PRIME MINISTER KAISER MATANZIMA OPENED THE 15TH ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE RULING TRANSKEI NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY (TNIP) MARCH 15 IN UMTATA WITH A SPEECH INDICATIVE OF A HARDENING OF HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA AND A DESCRE

TO ASSOCIATE WITH THE MORE RADICAL LIBERATION GROUPS IN SEEKING CHANGE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. MATANZIMA DENOUNCED THE SAG'S APARTHEID POLICIES AND SIAD TRANSKEI WISHED TO WORK WITH BOPHUTHATSWANA AND OTHER INDEPENDENT STATES OF THE REGION TO "FORCE WHITE SOUTH AFRICA TO COME TO ITS SENSES". HE SPECIFICALLY CRITICIZED THE SAG FOR ITS TREATMENT OF TRANSKIAN'S WITHIN SOUTH AFRICA, PRESUMABLY REFERRING TO THE FORCED REMOVAL OF SQUATTERS IN THE CAPE, MANY OF WHOM WERE XHOSAS. HE ALSO AGAIN CASTIGATED THE SAG FOR ITS REFUSAL TO TRANSFER EAST GRIQUALAND TO TRANSKEI, BUT REFRAINED FROM THE LUDICROUS BELLIGERENT STATEMENTS HE MADE LAST YEAR WHEN HE THREATENED TO GO TO WAR (WITH A 323-MAN ARMY) OVER THE ISSUE.

3. IN AN UNEXPECTED GESTURE MATANZIMA INDICATED HIS INTENTION TO CALL A CONFERENCE LATER THIS YEAR IN TRANSKEI OF ALL "OPPRESSED PEOPLE" IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. WHILE HE DID NOT SPELL IT OUT IN HIS SPEECH, PRESS REPORTS FROM UMTATA INDICATE HE HAS IN MIND INVITING ANC, PAC AND BPC LEADERS, AMONG OTHERS, TO PARTICIPATE. (THIS ACTION WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH A PROMISE WE UNDERSTAND HE MADE TO FORMER PAC EXECUTIVE MEMBER TSEPO LETLAKA, NOW HIS FINANCE MINISTER, COAXING LETLAKA TO RETURN TO TRANSKEI JUST PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE).

4. IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN SOME FORM OF DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION, MATANZIMA CALLED ON THE "BIG FIVE WESTERN POWERS" (HE SEEMINGLY HAS IN MIND THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP) TO VISIT TRANSKEI AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONSULT WITH HIM. IN TYPICAL FASHION HE THREATENED THAT IF THEY DID NOT DO SO HE WOULD TURN TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST OR FAR EAST. HE ALSO ASKED THE UN AND THE OAU TO RECOGNIZE TRANSKEI'S POTENTIAL ROLE IN RESISTING APARTHEID AND ASSISTING THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

5. THERE WAS NO MENTION IN THE PRESS REPORTS OF THE SPEECH OF THE BORDER SITUATION WITH LESOTHO. HOWEVER, THE TRANSKEI NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WAS SCHEDULED TO OPEN MARCH 15 AND IT IS POSSIBLE MATANZIMA WILL REFER TO THAT SITUATION IN HIS OPENING SPEECH BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY.

6. COMMENT: MATANZIMA'S STARKER CRITICISM OF THE SG AND EXPRESSED DESIRE TO MOVE TRANSKEI MORE CLOSELY INTO ALIGNMENT WITH THE SOUTHERN AFRICA LIBERATION STRUGGLE SHOULD CAUSE SOME DISCOMFORT FOR THE SAG, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE ARTICULATION OF HIS DISENCHANTMENT IS BEING EXPRESSED IN SOMEWHAT MORE REALISTIC TERMS THAN HIS EARLIER EMPTY BELLIGERENT THREATS. FARBER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, SPEECHES, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DURBAN00181
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780121-0673
Format: TEL
From: DURBAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780356/aaaabvbw.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 559b17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3295150
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MATANZIMA ATTACKS SAG POLICIES
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, SF, (MATANZIMA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/559b17c5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014